

Testimony before the Human Services Committee
2/23/10
Barbara Albert

Good morning/afternoon members of the Human Services Committee, also to everyone else. My name is Barbara Albert, renter in Hartford, registered voter, advocate for Human Rights, and multiply medically challenged, some visible, most not. I'm on Social Security Disability, Medicare and Medicaid. I do volunteer work when able.

My testimony concerns **S.B. 32, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Social Services.**

The "Agency Purpose" of the CT Department of Social Services starts out that "D.S.S. provides a continuum of core services to families and individuals who need assistance in maintaining or achieving their full potential..." (Looks good on paper doesn't it) Even D.S.S. wants to make further restrictions, making "maintaining" a total impossibility for people like me, never mind the "achieving their full potential..."

I see eight doctors for several chronic conditions. In my opinion, their signature on a prescription is prior authorization. They know my history, and which medications I've already tried and their side effects. My body knows the difference between 'Generic' and 'Brand Name'. I can't even take coated baby aspirin that my pulmonologist recently suggested. I can't ingest anything for my low blood sugar until two hours after I wake, because of time restriction with other medications for other conditions. This two hour window increases the possibility of seizures, migraines and the possibility of nonfunctioning for at least the next couple of days. Sometimes I underuse my meds. This is not only due to recently

imposed co-pays, it's also due to helping them last, and deterioration of other medical conditions.

I, like many others, are already making do without most basic human necessities. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

Please do not support the gentrifying cuts and restrictions of S.B.32, particularly to the people of this capitol city of the 'richest state', where more than a third of us 'live' in poverty, and Hartford is tied for second highest poverty rate in the nation.

Thank you for listening.